

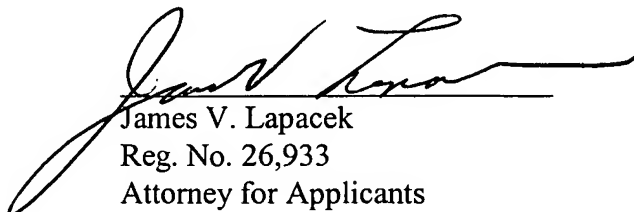
REMARKS

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments in the above-identified Office Action in which the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter and as being indefinite and rejected claims 5-6 as being anticipated by Nasson 3,859,704 and unpatentable on the basis of applicants' disclosure of prior art and Wei 5,803,553. Specifically, claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2-4 have been amended to depend from claim 5. Thus, claims 2-6, as amended, are considered to be in allowable form.

For example, the subject matter of claims 5 and 6 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art since the prior art neither discloses nor suggests using both adhesive applied to grooves in the tubular housing and heating the end flange for assembly to provide an interference fit thereby. The Nasson reference is directed to assembly of a wheel rim to a wheel spider by deforming the wheel rim into the preformed grooves in the wheel spider. The Wei reference is directed to a wheel rim heat shrunk onto a wheel disc and mechanically secured to the wheel disc by an interlocking arrangement of grooves in the wheel rim and beads in the wheel disc. Further, while the sealing material may include an adhesive, this reference does not teach attachment thereby. Thus, there is no suggestion from such a reference to provide grooves to a heat-shrink assembling process with adhesive. Additionally, these references neither disclose nor suggest the features of applicants' invention as recited in claims 2-4, as amended, depending from claim 5. For example, claims 2 and 3 relate to the depth of the grooves being less than the amount of the interference fit.

Accordingly, claims 5 and 6, as well as claims 2-4 depending from claim 5, as amended, and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,


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